

Casino, racetrack on hold awaiting decisions

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Romulus residents are still asking the question "When are the casino and racetrack going to be a done deal?"

At this point it is out of the hands of the city, according to Mayor Alan Lambert.

"We are in a holding pattern right now," he said. "There isn't really anything else we can do at the city level on both projects."

The casino, which was proposed last year by the Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, is currently awaiting approval in the U.S. Congress. Lambert said things are looking up after his recent trip to Washington D.C.

He recently testified before members of Congress when he appeared before the House Committee on Resources in support of House Bills HR 2793 and HR

"We are in a holding pattern right now. There isn't really anything else we can do at the city level on both projects."

Mayor Alan Lambert

831, the proposed Native American land settlement agreements, which would allow the tribe to build a casino in Romulus.

The tribe has proposed a \$350 million casino, conference center, golf course and hotel, which representatives for the tribe said they believe would bring an anticipated 17,500 people to Romulus each day. It would have more than 2,500 slot machines and 90 table games. Tribal representatives estimate that this casino, which

would sit on 40 acres of undisclosed land, would add 3,500 jobs to the city.

Romulus would receive an estimated \$6 million in slot revenues each year.

Lambert said that after his testimony, he received some feedback from members of congress who were originally against the proposed casino. They changed their minds and will now support the bill when it comes back to the floor, Lambert said.

"We feel that it will get through a vote," said Lambert. "We just have to wait and see what happens."

Lambert said the only thing delaying the Michigan Downs racetrack is the track license from the state.

"The City of Romulus is completely behind the racetrack project," he said. "We have given them approval and now they just need the license and we can begin to break ground."

See **Casino**, page 3

Teacher raises funds for leukemia foundation

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

When Danielle Kovachevich learned that one of her students had been diagnosed with leukemia, she said she had to do something.

"Sometimes, as a teacher, you get attached to the students," said Kovachevich, referring to 12-year-old Alex Ingesoulis. "It was tough to look out and see Alex's seat empty."

Kovachevich, an East Middle School teacher in the Plymouth-Canton Community School District, decided to organize a fundraiser to help families facing the

Chilis is pitching in barware signs and a \$50 gift certificate and Bill Wink Chevrolet is adding a keyless entry installation, a \$200 value.

Canton Park Dental's Dr. Norma Cepela donated a Zoom bleaching procedure worth \$800; Tanning Alternative Salon in Northville Township is contributing 10 tanning sessions, a \$45 value; Bak Photography in Plymouth is donating a full family portrait session and an 11 by 14-inch portrait valued at \$350;

"Last year's event was our first attempt at raising money for the Children's Leukemia Foundation."

Charlotte Partin, of Romulus, is chipping in a \$70 gift certificate for house cleaning; and P&P Dance Studio in Belleville is

donating one month of free dance lessons, a \$70 value, to a lucky winner.

Partin said there was no way she couldn't donate to the cause.

"If I had a million dollars I would give it this cause," said Partin. "Anything that has to do with children, there is just something about kids that makes people melt."

Michelle Sypula, owner and director of P&P Dance Studio in Belleville, said that they frequently donate to this important cause.

"Leukemia is one of those diseases that is getting forgotten," she said. "It is something that we have been fighting for so long, and it needs to be paid attention to. We donate at least five times a year, along with participating in different fundraising walks throughout Michigan."



'Fore' a good cause

The Mayor's Substance Abuse Task Force generated thousands of dollars for area youth programs and scholarships at the annual golf outing last Friday. More than 140 golfers enjoyed the beautiful weather including Mayor Alan Lambert and his fiancée, Diane Banks. City planner Cynthia Lyons also participated in the annual event.



Bus drivers donate knitted hats, blankets

School may be out, but Romulus Community School District bus drivers are keeping busy this summer. They are not gardening, swimming or just relaxing. They are knitting.

It may not be a typical activity for school employees during the summer, but for these drivers, the yarn work comes from the heart.

The drivers have been knitting hats and matching blankets for more than 600 premature babies born in area hospitals.

The project began when Stacey

Prater, a student nurse in the labor and delivery department at Providence Hospital, as well as the daughter of bus driver, JoAnn Prater, asked her mom if she could make a few hats for some premature babies during the Christmas season using leftover yarn.

Prater worked on her knitting project in the transportation department lounge between her runs. Other drivers began to notice and asked what it was for and if they could help out.

The result has been the 600 matching hats and blankets that have been donated to St. Joseph Hospital, the University of Michigan Mott's Hospital, Children's DMC Hospital, Oakwood Hospital, Annapolis and Providence Hospitals.

Prater explained that she and her colleagues all enjoy the thought of providing the hats and blankets in which new parents snuggle their babies, but also in

See **Drivers**, page 3

'Cat'astrophy

Animal group helps fund surgery for cat

Andrea King
Staff Writer

It didn't look good for Mokey.
The 1-year-old cat was barely clinging to life after a fight with several neighborhood felines, and his owners couldn't afford the treatment to save him.

That's when the Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue (FMAR)—and the Michigan Avenue Animal Hospital—stepped in.

According to Pete LaFramboise, co-founder and president of FMAR, the organization was contacted by the Michigan Avenue Animal Hospital in Ypsilanti recently for

”
He went through
it with flying colors.
He is wearing a collar
that is driving him nuts,
but otherwise, he's
doing well now.

Pete LaFramboise

help to pay for surgery for the injured cat. Without immediate medical attention, Mokey could have died, LaFramboise said.

Vets at the Michigan Avenue Animal Hospital—who recently

became involved with FMAR—thought that they could save Mokey.

And they did.

Mokey's right eye was surgically removed to save him and he is now on his way to recovery, said LaFramboise.

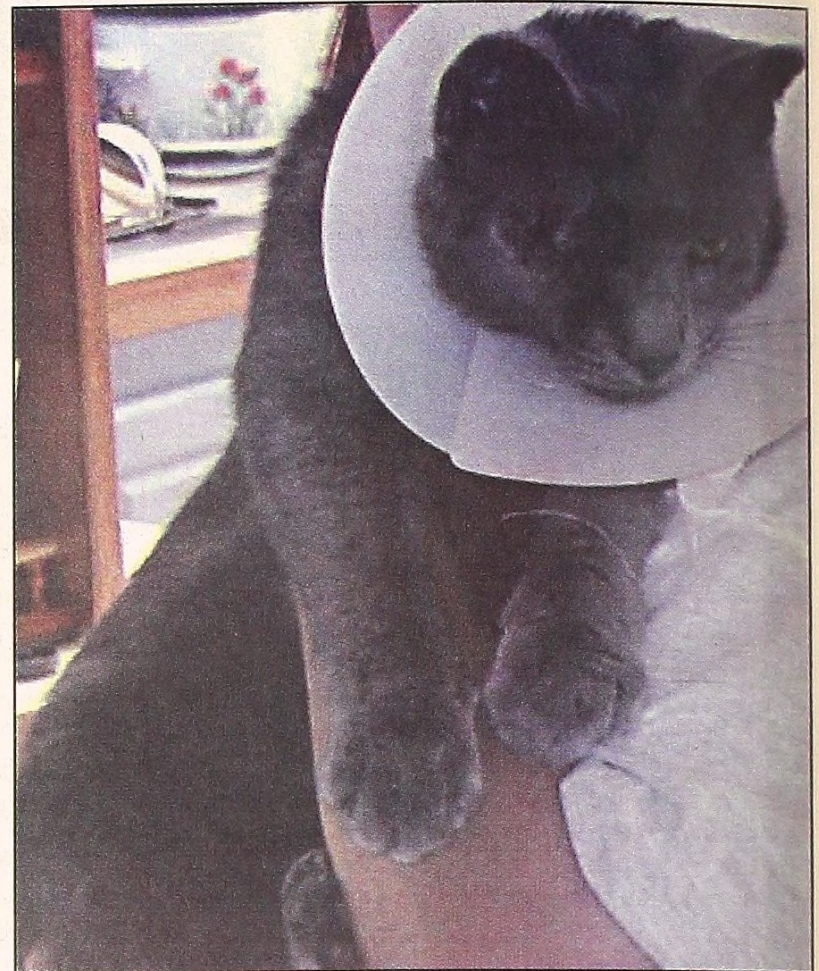
“He went through it with flying colors,” he said. “He is wearing a collar that is driving him nuts, but otherwise, he's doing well now.”

Once Mokey is fully recovered, he will be up for adoption.

“Mokey is really a very sweet, loving cat,” said LaFramboise.

The shelter is asking for donations for Mokey, and to benefit the other homeless animals residing at the center, located at 51305 Arkona Road.

Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue is a non-profit organization committed to protecting animals and residents by promoting a safe and healthy environment, according to LaFramboise. The shelter operates a ‘no kill’ animal rescue providing necessary medical attention, shelter, spay and neuter services, vaccinations and adoption services. They



Mokey is forced to wear a surgical collar which his caregivers say annoys him. Mokey's eye had to be surgically removed after several neighborhood cats critically injured him. When he is fully recovered, Mokey will be available for adoption.



Mokey, a 1-year-old cat, underwent surgery to remove his right eye, and is on his way to recovery. Friends of Animal Rescue helped fund the medical care necessary to save his life.

are currently providing a low-cost spay/neuter program in hopes of decreasing the overpopulation of animals in the community.

Animals up for adoption are available to be seen from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. the first and third Saturdays each month at Petco on Warren Road in Westland.

In the future, FMAR will renovate the 8,600-square-foot barn to

include a clinic, training area and offices. Currently, they have nine kennels for dogs and five kennels for cats, and have helped more than 50 animals find new homes, he said.

Donations can be sent to: Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, C/O Mokey Surgery, P.O. Box 854, Belleville, MI, 48112-0854. For more information, call 734-461-9458.

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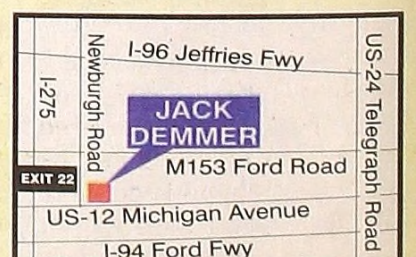
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Farewell

Romulus school district says goodbye to 11 employees



Evelyn Koerber

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Eleven employees were honored for their service to the Romulus Community School District by members of the board of education recently.

Among those honored were:

Sandra Rakoczy has worked for 21 years in food preparation and as a custodian at several schools in the district. She was cited for her excellent attendance, outstanding work ethics and the high personal standards she brought to her work in the schools.

Evelyn Koerber is retiring after more than 21 years as a bus aide. She was commended for her many outstanding job evaluations and consistently exceeding her job expectations, as well as for her excellent relationships with students, parents and colleagues. Koerber was also recognized for her volunteer work at proms and graduations, as well as her work in support of numerous district millage and bond campaigns.

Phyllis Kreft is retiring after a 30-year career as a para-professional working at four different schools within the district. She was cited for consistently exceeding her job standards, exemplary organizational skills and high expectations for her students. She was also recognized for her outstanding and dedicated commitment to the students of Cory Elementary, as well as her professional assistance with kindergarten round-up groups and her prompt, accurate and complete yearly reports.

Paula Barnes has been an elementary school teacher in the district for 33 years. She taught at the old Gordonier Elementary School, as well as at Wick Elementary School. She was recognized as a master teacher and outstanding mentor to new teachers and for her volunteer work on district math textbook selection and language arts guide committees. She was also praised for her management skills and for providing an optimum learning environment for her students.

Mary Albus was employed with the Romulus School District for 31 years as an elementary teacher at Merriman, Mount Pleasant and Wick Elementary schools. She was recognized as a master teacher who often

shared her expertise with student teachers from Eastern Michigan University. She was cited for being highly respected by staff, students and parents and for her conscientious and professional approach to teaching. Albus was also commended for her highly-effective use of class time and masterful job of teaching as evidenced by letters from parents.

Christine Hobson had a 30-year career as a learning center specialist at Hayti and Beverley Elementary schools and as a language arts teacher at Romulus Middle School. She was recognized for her outstanding teaching abilities. Hobson also gave freely of her own time and money to the Student of the Month and Santa's Workshop programs. She served on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program testing and reading textbook selection committees. She was the middle school language arts department head and helped implement the Johns Hopkins Team Literature program at the middle school.

Suzanne Eastman worked for the district as a bus driver, delivery person and custodian for 28 years. Her custodial work received commendations for keeping schools spotless both inside and out and administrators often praised her for her willingness to assist others. She was also recognized for her exemplary work ethic and job performance and for her dependability, character and love of her job.

Darrell Kenyon was a 30-year math and science teacher with the Romulus schools who taught at both the junior and senior school level. Kenyon was cited for his frequent acceptance of additional duties such as head of the science department, junior class advisor, School within a School chairperson, School Improvement Team membership for his science department presentations to the board.

He was also honored for his work on extra projects such as the Friends of the Rouge River program and a special Toronto field trip.

He was also recognized for his contributions as the assistant track and football coach at the high school and was praised by former students who said he made a major difference in their education and recommended him for inclusion in the Who's Who

Among American Teachers.

Catherine Uhring is ending a 35-year teaching career with the Romulus schools that included assignments in language arts, science, social studies and sociology at both the junior and senior high schools. She was honored for her professional mentoring work with new Romulus teachers and as a teacher who made a significant positive difference in her students' lives.

Uhring was also recognized for her contributions to programs such as the Intergeneration Writing project, the Adolescent Outlook program, the Johns Hopkins Student Team Literature program and the district Climate Committee. She was commended as an excellent teacher with high expectations who gave 100 percent to motivate her students.

James Orme was a teacher for 26 years who taught language arts, science, math and health at the junior, senior and alternative schools. He concluded his career as a guidance counselor at the high school. At one time her was honored as the Eastern Michigan Outstanding Educator, and he spent many extra hours he dedicated to his counseling position.

Orme was also honored for the many after school programs in which he was involved during his tenure with the district including the School Improvement Team, Science Fair, Conservation Club and the Student of the Month program. He also worked as the Federal Summer Youth Employment program coordinator.

Robert Beauchamp is retiring after a 29-year teaching career in Romulus. He taught business, computer science and keyboarding at both the middle school and high school.

He was honored for his work in developing the eighth grade social studies career project and for his outstanding data processing program. He was also recognized for the extra time he volunteered to school activities such as the prom, vocational education week, middle school awareness days and the DECA Region IX Career competitions where he served as a judge.

He was additionally lauded for spending his own time developing computer programs for his vocational classes and for his outstanding rapport with his students and for his work as the high school tennis coach.



Suzanne Eastman



James Orme



Darrell Kenyon



Catherine Uhring

Photos of
Sandra Rakoczy
and
Robert Beauchamp
were
unavailable.



Phyllis Kreft



Paula Barnes



Mary Albus



Christine Hobson

Casino

FROM PAGE 1

Lambert said the track license would have been granted to Magna a long time ago, if it hadn't been for the proposed racino legislation in the state house.

"Once the racino became a reality, everyone wanted in on the action, so it is has slowed down the licensing process," he said. "But, Magna is going to build this racetrack whether or not the racino bill goes through. They are about the horse rac-

ing, not the slot machines."

With the racetrack and the casino, also comes the possibility of new developers looking to Romulus. Lambert said that the city is currently talking with a major mall developer about building in the city.

"It is looking really good right now that this developer is truly interested in building a major mall in this city," said Lambert.

"We have so many possibilities in this city right now. The sky is the limit with all of this development wanting to come into Romulus. We are definitely on the right track."

Drivers

FROM PAGE 1

unhappy circumstances.

"In the unfortunate instances of death during childbirth, the families often put their child to rest in our hats and blankets," she said. "This is a very difficult situation for these families and we feel fortunate to be able to help out in our own way."

The group, which includes Kathy Montney, Sandy Tenney, Sandy Czajkowski, Helen Deverich, Lee Varga, Linda Madej, Evelyn Koerber, Ruth Hopson, Betty Cantrell, Diane Chapman, Debbie Fabrizio, Mary Mahon and Kerry Vaughn, are currently working on 100 hats and blankets to be donated to Garden City Hospital.

The group of volunteer knitters are accepting any donations of yarn and/or money. Donations can be



Romulus bus drivers who have donated their time knitting for premature babies include JoAnn Prater, left, Debbie Fabrizio, Evelyn Koerber, Ruth Hopson, Batty Cantrell, Mary Mahon, Kerry Vaughn and Diane Chapman.

mailed or dropped off at the Romulus Board of Education offices, 36540 Grant Road and should be addressed to Prater.

10th Annual Michigan Jazz Festival is Sunday

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Some of the greatest jazz musicians in the Metropolitan Detroit area are headed to Schoolcraft College for the 10th annual Michigan Jazz Festival, a free event that will take place on Sunday.

From noon until 10:30 p.m., the campus will be alive with the sound of jazz as more than 200 musicians perform at five different venues within the campus. According to Midge Ellis, coordinator of the Michigan Jazz Festival, all of the performers are established jazz musicians, along with a few college bands.

The event, Ellis said, was born out of a desire to showcase homegrown talent instead of focusing on only those musicians who are nationally recognized.

"We started it because we wanted to give our local musicians recognition before they go off to the (bigger) cities and get famous," said Ellis.

However, she said that taking a closer look at local musicians also made sense for other reasons.

"Very few jazz musicians can make a living playing music," said Ellis. She added that while most of the musicians the festival features are extraordinarily talented and could have made a bigger name for themselves had they left the area; for the most part they chose to stay due to family, employment, or other considerations.

However, Ellis said that plans for the event include more than just the desire to showcase the cream of local talent—it was also designed to help expose young musicians to the music. As a result, the event is child friendly.

Performances will take place both indoors and out, as different jazz groups will perform in two different rooms within the new VisTaTech Center as well as in a large tent outdoors. Another indoor stage will be devoted to five big bands.

The final staging area, in the Steinway Café, will feature individual jazz pianists to expose the crowd to the heart behind the music, performing jazz improvisations of anything from jazz standards to hymns, as they help listeners learn to better appreciate the spirit of the music, she said.

"They're composing on the spot; it's a lesson in jazz," said Ellis. She added that she had received more phone calls on that aspect of the event than she had on anything else.

The attraction must be strong, since Ellis said that the event draws jazz fans from Flint, Port Huron, and Canada as well as music lovers who live in the area.

"People love jazz because it's so free," said Ellis. "It's not written so it's never played the same way twice." She added that the atmosphere of the festival acts as a draw to music lovers, since the musicians tend to stick around both

before and after they play their sets which allows for more interaction than the listeners generally get at such performances.

About 50 volunteers will be at work to keep the musicians on schedule and the event working like clockwork, Ellis said. In fact, between the structure and the festive atmosphere, she said that it is not just listeners the event attracts—it also attracts more bands than the festival can support. Coordinators of the festivals receive so many applications that even after narrowing the selection based on quality; the final selections are done randomly to ensure fairness.

"We put the names in a hat and draw them out," said Ellis. "They all want to come back." As a result, she said that seven bands would be making their first appearance at the Michigan Jazz Festival.

The musicians agree to perform for the musicians' union scale wage for the event, which is funded by Friends of the Michigan Jazz Festival fundraisers, assorted sponsors, and through the Detroit Federation of Musicians, Local 5 Union with the recording industry Music Performance Fund.

Schoolcraft College offers their facilities almost free of charge, asking only for reimbursement for actual related expenses.

Ellis said that helping more people to understand jazz could help revive the genre, which she calls the only art form that is uniquely American. Ironically, she added that jazz is currently more popular in Europe than it is in the U.S.

Parking and admission to the event are free of charge. The facility includes ample handicapped parking and a drop-off zone in front of the building.

"You don't have to bring chairs," said Ellis. "You don't have to bring anything but yourself."

Aside from the live music, participants will also have opportunities to purchase the

musicians' latest compact discs as part of the so-called Jazz Walk connecting the venues.

Food will be available for purchase in the Schoolcraft cafeteria. Beer and wine will also be available for purchase.

For more information, call 248 474-2720 or 734 459-2454.

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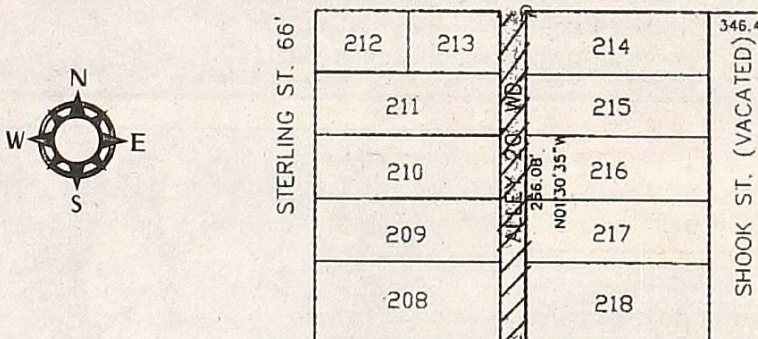
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NOTICE CITY OF ROMULUS ALLEY VACATION

Notice is hereby given, that the City Council of the City of Romulus, has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 on Monday, August 9, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of taking testimony on the proposed vacation of the following alleys:

The 20 foot alley abutting Lots 208 thru 211 and Lots 213 thru 218; Supervisors Romulus Plat Number 11.



Written comments may be submitted to the attention of Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485, no later than 12:00 o'clock noon, Monday, August 9, 2004.

Linda Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

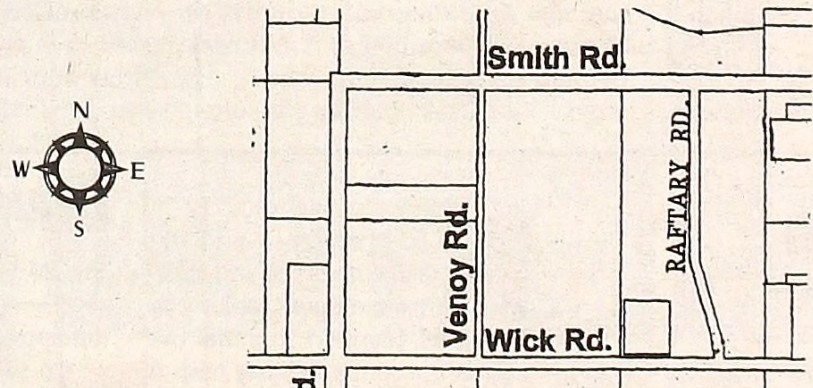
Publish: July 15, 2004
July 22, 2004

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING!

NOTICE CITY OF ROMULUS ROAD VACATION

Notice is hereby given, that the City Council of the City of Romulus, has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 on Monday, August 2, 2004 at 6:45 p.m. for the purpose of taking testimony on the proposed vacation of the following roads:

That portion of Raftary Road and Venoy Road between the southerly line of Smith Road on the north and the northerly line of Wick Road on the south.



Written comments may be submitted to the attention of Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485, no later than 12:00 o'clock noon, Monday, August 2, 2004.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: July 8, 2004
July 15, 2004

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING!

OPINION

A matter most fowl

How much government is too much?

In some respects, that's what Wayne City Council members will ponder when they revisit an ordinance to limit the feeding of certain types of birds within city limits.

On the one hand, residents should feel like they have the right to feed whatever they want to on their property. On the other is the broader impact that feeding can have on their neighbors, excessive spillover that causes a mess that they did not invite.

It's an interesting debate.

City council members took one look at a proposed ordinance last month and rejected it, in part because it was too vague. They'll take another look on Tuesday, after they view a video provided to them by residents who have experienced a growing problem throughout western Wayne County — people who throw out 'too much' food, attract 'too many' birds which then leave a huge mess behind that can literally affect an entire neighborhood.

It may sound silly, but it's a real issue for some residents.

It's also a difficult one to solve because it toes the line between property rights and the civic duty officials have to protect the general population. Attempts to solve the situation have bounced back and forth between the city and the Wayne County Health Department, with each at times pointing the finger the other.

We think the city should step up to the plate, here, and take a leading role in the attempt to solve the problem. It won't be an easy issue, of course, but we think they're better equipped to handle something like this than a department as overworked and understaffed as the Wayne County Health Department, which is also taxed by trying to enforce a general rule across a much broader — and more diverse — area.

The key to it will most likely be in the language of the ordinance itself, and how the city attempts to enforce it. Obviously it's impractical to have staff members drive around and look for thousands of birds that happen to be perched on a specific house, waiting for the daily bag of feed to drop.

It probably makes more sense to limit the feeding of all types of birds, rather than the previously proposed pigeon, gulls or waterfowl. Even then, you're stuck with identifying intangibles like 'excessive feeding' and public nuisances. That can be handled, though; perhaps the city can require that residents put out bird seed only in bird feeders, and limit the number of them.

Regardless of what they do, the only way they will truly be in the wrong is if they ignore the situation altogether.

Organization as an art form

Once again, the City of Plymouth has played host to a successful special event.

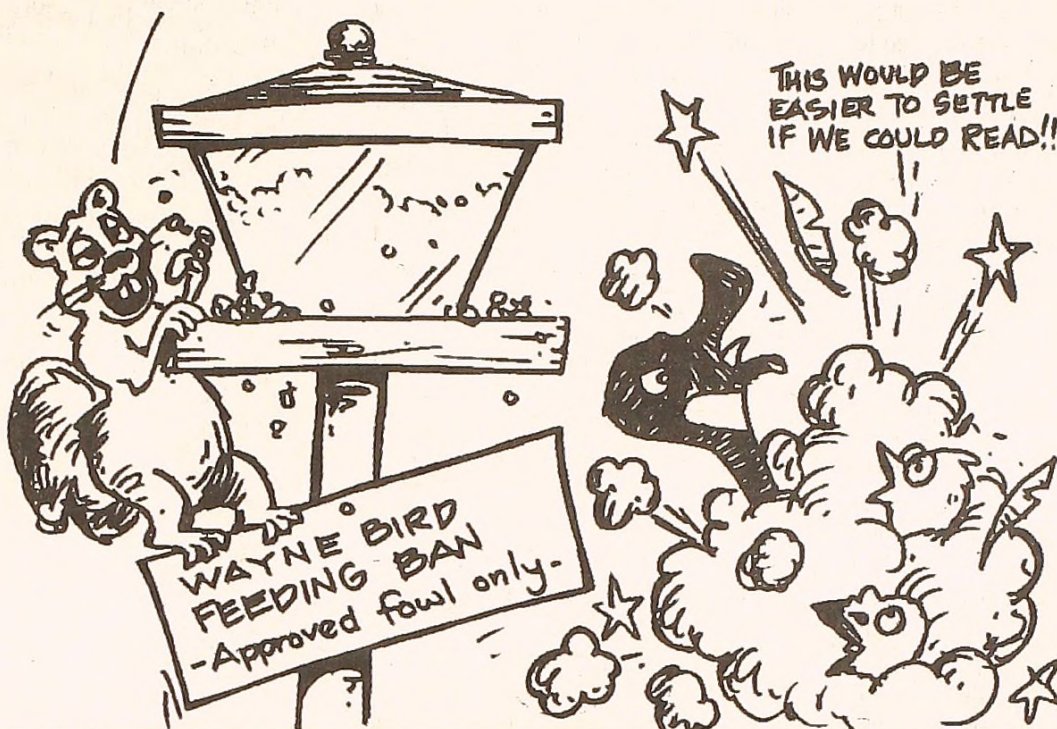
The annual Art in the Park, one of the largest — and best — outdoor art shows in the state, brought huge crowds to the city and, if the event was adversely affected by having to pay a stiffer bill to the city, it didn't show it.

In fact, we think Dianne Quinn and her daughter, Raychel, deserve a lot of credit for making the event so seamless. During the more than 20 years they've been organizing the art show, they've really gotten it down to a science, from the volunteer meeting the week before the event, to the afterglow for volunteers and the resulting thank yous that come in the mail later on.

It can't be an easy task to coordinate more than 420 artists and keep everyone happy, when you're dealing with several interested groups like the city, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the

See Art, page 6

TAKE YER TIME, GUYS... (URP)...



A lesson in poli-speak

The decision to close the Secretary of State branch office here in Wayne has caused some concern throughout the community.

City officials have tried, since they learned of the plan, to keep the office open, but to no avail. They've approved a resolution in support of the office and sent it up to Lansing, appealed to their state legislators to see if they could help out because they feel it's an important service to the community, along a well-traveled thoroughfare and bus route.

Their efforts to keep it open even attracted a response from the governor herself.

Well, sort of.

Here's the response from her office:

"Dear Ms. (Mary) Carney (Wayne City Clerk):

Thank you for taking the time to share the City of Wayne resolution regarding the closing of the Secretary of State office in Wayne. As a fellow public servant, I am grateful for your initiative to keep me informed and aware of the actions affecting your community. It is important that those of us fortunate enough to serve the citizens of Michigan work with a com-

bined effort to move our great State forward.

"It is an essential element to our being effective leaders of this state that we, as public servants, maintain open lines of communication and inform one another of important concerns affecting our constituencies. With that in mind, I truly appreciate you alerting me to the emerging concerns and interests specific to your community.

"Again, thank you for your correspondence. As I am sure you agree this is an exciting period to be representing the people of Michigan. With your continued leadership we can work toward moving Michigan forward, together."

Uh, what?

It might just be me, but I can't see where that said anything, at all.

Granted, the governor and her staff are very busy people. They can't respond, personally, to all the correspondence the office receives on a daily basis; simple mathematics will tell you that.

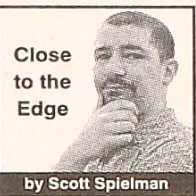
Still, though, you'd expect that after the amount of attention this has received in Lansing, the

letter would include some sort of detail, even if it was a line saying: the secretary of state makes decisions based on what she thinks is best for her department, as all Michigan department heads is supposed to do.

It's interesting, though, that even this form letter mentions how important it is for public servants to maintain open lines of communication and inform one another of important concerns that affect their respective constituencies — she even called it an essential element.

That's interesting because I've rarely seen that type of information flow come from the state to the locals; it's almost always the reverse, as it was in the case of the Wayne Secretary of State office. The locals often have very little, if any advance warning about crucial decisions made in some state meeting room in Lansing. It was the same with the State of Michigan property in Northville Township and nearly so with a proposed expansion of the Scott Correctional Facility there, too.

See Lesson, page 6



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Moderation is key to good health

Hot dogs are as American as baseball. The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council estimates fans ate 25.9 million hot dogs in major league ballparks in 2003.

That's down from the 26.3 million eaten in 2002 — but still enough to stretch from Dodgers' Stadium in Los Angeles to Yankee Stadium in New York City.

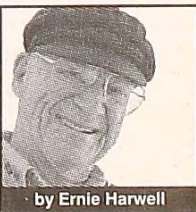
Now, I'm not about to knock an American institution, but I do want to get a plug in for moderation. After all, the average regular beef hot dog contains 150 calories and 13 grams of fat. Wrapping it in a plain white bread bun adds 100 calories and 1.5 more grams of fat. A table-

spoon each of ketchup, mustard, onions and relish adds at least another 50 calories. Throwing on an ounce of cheddar cheese adds another 120 calories and 10 grams of fat. So a hot dog with all the fixings can add up to more than 420 calories and 24 grams of fat — and a day's total allowance of sodium!

For the average person who eats plenty of fruits and veggies and watches fat and sodium intake, routing for the home team is more fun with a hot dog, maybe even some peanuts and Cracker Jacks — in moderation.

And please remember to take care of your health before it's longggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



by Ernie Harwell

JOURNAL

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Letters

Company responds to column

To the editor:

Over the more than two years my Magna Entertainment Corp. colleagues and I have had the pleasure and honor to work with the people of Romulus and their elected officials, we have developed a deep respect for the character and dignity of this city. In a recent "Odds and Ends" editorial, it was suggested that the exceptional quality of the Michigan Downs racetrack and entertainment facility—including well designed and meticulously maintained horse stables—will be in "gigantic contrast" to the writer's perception of Romulus and its residents. With all due respect, Romulus deserves the best, the city's planners are insisting on the best, and that is what we intend to deliver.

The editorial describes the people of Romulus as, "hard-working blue-collar employees trying to make ends meet each month." We are confident that the revenue generated and jobs created by Michigan Downs will be welcomed by Romulus residents. This multi-use entertainment facility offers other oppor-

tunities, such as, dining, meeting spaces and community activities that families can enjoy year-round.

As members of the Romulus community, we are committed to developing a successful project all Romulus residents can be proud of and enjoy. Holding us to any lesser standard would in fact be in "gigantic contrast" to the character of this city and the optimistic vision its people have for the future. Ultimately, the best way to demonstrate our respect for our neighbors is to design, build and operate the best Michigan Downs we possibly can.

Lorne Kumer
Vice-president, Real Estate
Michigan Downs

Resident criticizes leaders

To the editor:

(This is a copy of a letter written to Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack and township planners)

There are three deadly street corners on which you refuse to install traffic stoplights.

First is Beck and Geddes Road. A blinker is not adequate.

Many accidents happen there.

Second is Palmer and Sheldon Road. Accidents occur because four-way stop signs are not enough. People get confused as to which goes first and crashes are the result.

Third is Geddes and Sheldon Road. There is confusion again. Geddes should be closed off coming from Michigan Avenue. Sheldon is a through street and there is only a stop sign on Geddes. I witnessed a crash of three cars on a Saturday afternoon.

Surely the police report these accidents. Do we need a petition for you to pay attention? You have taxes galore from the expensive homes being built. You have plenty to build a \$30 million office complex, not to mention the community clubhouse. Yet, you ignore safety in this glorified township.

Also, there are far too many streetlights on Ford Road and not enough on the dark through side roads. Perhaps we need a new staff in November. For 20 years our taxes have helped your expansion and you don't listen to old-timers.

Jeffrey Katz,
Canton Township

Art

FROM PAGE 5

merchants and store owners who try to attract people to the city every other day of the year.

It's important not to overlook the significance the event, and others like it, play in the viability of the city.

Not only do they make Plymouth a unique place, but they also provide an economic boost, as well. City Manager Paul Sincock estimated that the event

brought about \$1 million into the local economy, through art show attendees who ate at restaurants, grabbed a cup of coffee, or visited the downtown shops as they checked out the town or tried to escape the heat.

There are likely to be some complaints fielded by volunteers or organizers of the event – you can't bring that many people into one area and have everybody leave happy, unfortunately. Hopefully, these occurrences were minor and can be rightfully put into perspective when the overall benefits to the community

are considered.

Art in the Park, after all, is an event that's become symbiotic with the identity of the city. Events like it and the Plymouth Fall Festival and the Plymouth International Ice Spectacular are ones that keep bringing new people to town, to show off this remarkable jewel in western Wayne County.

Lesson

FROM PAGE 5

Working to affect decisions after they are made or at the 11th hour is a situation electeds in the places like Wayne and Northville often have to do, through no fault of their own.

Personally, I don't care if they do shut down the office, even though it's about a half mile from the place I live and work. It was a run-down, unpleasant place that I would avoid if possible. I just hope that the next time the state makes a decision like this, the people with more connection to their community have a chance to give their input before the decision is a foregone conclusion.

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD
JUNE 28, 2004 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD,
ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Pro Tem Debbie Romak.

Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.

Excused: Randolph Gear, Mayor Pro Tem (Military Duty).

Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Kathleen Trent, Public Relations Director
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve the agenda as amended*.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-281

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Miller to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held June 15, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-282

3A. Motion by Miller, supported by Crova to schedule a public hearing on August 2, 2004, at 6:45 p.m. in the Romulus City hall Council Chamber, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan for the purpose of taking testimony on the proposed Vacation of that part of Venoy Road and Raftary Road between Smith Road and Wick Road in conjunction with the Michigan Downs Project.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-283

3B1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and the Petitioner, Grant-Perry Development; Preserve of Romulus, PC-2004-002, and introduce an amendment to the Official Zoning Map of the City of Romulus by designating approximately 85± acres of land on the south side of Ecorse Road, north of Henry Ruff Road and east of Wayne Road; DP#82-80-033-99-0013-000 as a Planned Development area (PDA) and grant approval of the Planned Development Area Designation and the preliminary site plan for the Preserve of Romulus subject to the comments of the Planning Consultants review letter dated June 16, 2004, the Engineering Consultants review letter dated June 10, 2004, and the Fire Departments memo dated June 11, 2004. Further the Planning Commission shall determine the street light issue during final site plan approval.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - Wadsworth. Motion Carried.

04-284

3B2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to approve the Planned Development Agreement for of PC-2004-002, "Preserve of Romulus", subject to the revisions outlined in the City Attorneys letter dated June 11, 2004, the Planning consultants letter dated June 16, 2004 and the engineering consultants letter dated June 10, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays - Wadsworth. Motion Carried.

04-285

3C. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Miller to grant Petitioner James Spear approval to close that portion of Orchard Street, west of Meadow between the addresses 15937 Orchard to 15895 Orchard, to all traffic except emergency vehicles, on Sunday, July 4, 2004 from 1:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m., for the purpose of having a Family Block Party; consistent with the Fire Department and Police Department approvals.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-286

4A. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Gerald Nault.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Miller to accept the Chairman's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-287

5A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to approve the FY 2003/2004 encumbrances for General Fund, Major Streets and Local Street Routine Maintenance, Federal Forfeitures and Water & Sewer Funds Construction in progress.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Romak, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-288

5B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to introduce Budget Amendment 03/04- to appropriate additional funds for attorney fees associated with the General Municipal Contract, Dykema Gossett, PLLC and current employee contract negotiations through June 30,2004.

FUND/DEPT.			CURRENT	
ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDED	BUDGET
<u>General Fund</u>				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
101-1220-712.77-11	Attorney Fees-Gen Municipal	77,496	6,000	83,496
101-1220-712.77-12	Contractual Attorney Fees	64,372	3,000	67,372
101-1220-712.77-14	Attorney Fees-Labor Rel	18,503	2,500	21,003
<u>Fund Balance</u>				
General Fund	AVAILABLE	APPROPRIATE	BALANCE	
	706,756	11,500	695,256	

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-289

5C. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to introduce Budget Amendment 03/04-50:

FUND/DEPT.			CURRENT	AMENDED
ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDED	BUDGET
<u>Sanitation</u>				
<u>Expenditures</u>				
226-4710-747.74-10	Recycling	215,568	27,910	243,478
226-4710-747.74-19	Garbage & Rubbish Removal	502,992	96,187	599,179
<u>Fund Balance</u>				
Sanitation	AVAILABLE	APPROPRIATE	BALANCE	
	239,610	124,097	115,513	

To appropriate additional funds to cover the costs of recycling and garbage and rubbish removal through June 30, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-290

5D. Motion by Miller, supported by Prybyla to direct the City Clerk to forward a resolution to the Wayne County Permit Division, guaranteeing the maintenance of 30 feet of storm sewer in the Wayne Road right-of-way for the Family Dollar Project, located at 8400 Wayne Road within the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-291

5E. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to authorize the necessary repairs to the 1987 Mini Pumper with B & L Frame at an estimated cost of \$5,000.00 with funds available in the Motor Vehicle Fund, Emergency Repairs Account #661-440-744.75-02, and that cost of said repair shall be deemed an emergency expenditure.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-292

5F. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to authorize the purchase of electronic repair manual software from Snap-On Industrial, the sole source provider, at a cost of \$11,417.95, with funds available in the Motor Vehicle Fund, Equipment Maintenance Account #66 1 4410-744.74-78.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-293

"Resolution 04-293 rescinded July 6, 2004 by Resolution 04-312**
5G. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Prybyla to concur with the administration and adopt a resolution adopting the Final Project Plan for Wastewater System Improvements and designating Carl Brooks, DPW Director, as authorized project representative for installation of Sanitary Sewer on Merriman Road, Eureka to Pennsylvania.

Roll Call Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - Crova. Motion Carried.

04-294

5G2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to concur with the administration and adopt a resolution adopting the Final Project Plan for Wastewater System Improvements and designate Carl Brooks, DPW Director, as authorized project representative for installation of Sanitary Sewer on Herman Street, west of Ozga.

Roll Call Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Publish: July 15, 2004

Summer concerts continue
The Van Buren Township summer concert series continues with a performance by Carl Vanover and Friends at 7:30 p.m. July 21 at Van Buren Park. The park is located off the I-94 Service Drive between Belleville Road and Rawsonville Road. For more information, call the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department at 734-699-8921.

Cars cruise Metropark
The second annual Cruzin' The Park Swap Meet and Car Event will begin with registration at 8 a.m. Aug. 27 and continue through Aug. 29 at the Lower Huron Metropark in Belleville. The price for show cars is \$20 for the entire weekend, \$10 per day for non-show cars and \$25 for a 20-by-20-foot space for swap-meet vendors. Park entrance fees also apply. The event will also include a DJ, a movie with free popcorn, muffler rapping, flame throwing, car hopping and live music. For more information, call 734-697-7254.

Clothing drive planned
Members of the New Life Baptist Church in Belleville have organized an ongoing clothing and furniture drive. The congregation members are looking for any items that are in good shape. For more information or to donate, call the Rev. Billy Hailes at 734-489-0054.

Summer storytelling continues
Parents and caregivers are invited to bring children to the Leanna Hicks Library summer storytelling sessions. The theme

this year is "Great parents, great starts." The sessions will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. each Thursday. The program is geared for children ages 3 years old and up. Parents are required to stay in the library for the entire 45-minute session. Pre-registration is encouraged. The library is located at 2005 Inkster Road, directly behind city hall. For more information, call 313 563-2822.

Golf outing tees off
The Romulus Chamber of Commerce is hosting the annual golf outing Aug. 26. The outing will take place at the Woodlands of Van Buren Township. For more information, call 734-326-4290.

Japanese Tea Ceremony set
The William P Faust Public Library of Westland will host a Japanese Tea Ceremony at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Tomoyo Koehler will perform the 'Cah-No-Yu, 'Hot Water for Tea.' Sample sweets will be available, too. Space is limited, so advance registration is required. Anyone interested can register at the reference desk at the library, which is located off Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren roads.

Anniversary party planned
The 25th anniversary of the Romulus Historical Society will be celebrated during a party at 11120 Hunt St. July 21. The celebration will include music and refreshments. The event will start at 7 p.m. The public is welcome. For more information, call the Romulus Historical Society at 734 942-2340.

Historic Re-enactment set
The Romulus Historical Museum has scheduled ongoing presentations depicting the way early pioneers in Romulus might have lived. The re-enactments will take place at the historic Samuel R. Kingsley House next to the post office in downtown Romulus from 1 until 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information contact the Romulus Historical Museum at 734 697-9628.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, July 27, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111.

The Public Hearing relates to Parcel Number V125-83-131-99-0008-000 and V125-83-131-99-000-7000, also known as 16565 & 16595 Elwell Road. The properties are located on the east side of Elwell Road, between Bak and Lohr Roads.

The subject site is located within the Charter Township of Van Buren AG (Agricultural) Zoning District. The applicant, Dena Ostrowski, is requesting a variance to the Township's Lot Split Ordinance, Section 78-168 to permit the creation of 2 non-conforming parcels of land.

The applicant is requesting a variance to:

SECTION 78-168 LOT SPLIT ORDINANCE

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the above reference Public Hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: July 15, 2004
Posted: July 15, 2004

**1954 PA 188 Proceedings
Notice of Street Lighting Special Assessment Hearing**

**Charter Township of Van Buren
Wayne County, Michigan**

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions by the developer and property owners within the Township signed by the record owners of land whose footage constitutes more than 50 percent of the total footage of the hereinafter described as Walden Woods Subdivision Phase 3 Street Lighting Special Assessment District and the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren proposes to purchase, construct and maintain street lights and to create a special assessment district for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the District within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be constructed and within which the cost thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as follows: Walden Woods Subdivision Phase 3, Lots 116-202 inclusive.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township has received a preliminary street lighting layout plan from Detroit Edison indicating 12 street lights to be constructed with an annual operating cost of \$3,358.52. This plan is on file at the Township Clerk's Office and is available for examination and will further be available at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing upon the proposed street lighting project design and cost will be held at the Charter Township of Van Buren Municipal Center at 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan, commencing at 7:30 p.m. on July 20, 2004.

At such hearing, the board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters which might be filed with said board at or prior to the time of said hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments, or changes to said Plans, Estimates and Costs or to said Special Assessment District.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place and to submit comments concerning any of the foregoing.

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Township Clerk Joannie Payne
46425 Tyler Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Publish: July 8, 2004
July 15, 2004

**1954 PA 188 Proceedings
Notice of Street Lighting Special Assessment Hearing**

**Charter Township of Van Buren
Wayne County, Michigan**

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions by the developer and property owners within the Township signed by the record owners of land whose footage constitutes more than 50 percent of the total footage of the hereinafter described as Pine Forest Subdivision Street Lighting Special Assessment District and the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren proposes to purchase, construct and maintain street lights and to create a special assessment district for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the District within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be constructed and within which the cost thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as follows: Pine Forest Subdivision, Lots 1 through 110 inclusive.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township has received a preliminary street lighting layout plan from Detroit Edison indicating 2 street lights to be constructed with an annual operating cost of \$2,411.21. This plan is on file at the Township Clerk's Office and is available for examination and will further be available at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing upon the proposed street lighting project design and cost will be held at the Charter Township of Van Buren Municipal Center at 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan, commencing at 7:30 p.m. on July 20, 2004.

At such hearing, the board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters which might be filed with said board at or prior to the time of said hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments, or changes to said Plans, Estimates and Costs or to said Special Assessment District.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place and to submit comments concerning any of the foregoing.

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Township Clerk Joannie Payne
46425 Tyler Road
Belleville, MI 48111

Publish: July 8, 2004
July 15, 2004.

THE SCENE



Reviewed by
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The legend lives on...

'King Arthur' jousts with history in new tale

The newly released *King Arthur* cuts across the grain of every story ever told about the legendary and fabled king and his Knights of the Round Table.

Arthur explores a darker side of the legend — presenting a tormented man and his struggle to gain freedom from the Romans and live peacefully in an enlightened world of equality and democracy.

This film, supposedly supported by historical findings, tells the story of Artorius (Clive Owen), a fearless half-Roman, half-Sarmatian warrior in charge of protecting Britain from the Saxons. The Sarmatians, a group of people known for breeding ferocious and skilled warriors, were conquered by the Romans hundreds of years prior to the story, yet the Roman army continued to enslave Sarmatian men with 15 years of servitude as interim soldiers to police the British Isle. Hence, Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table were born.

In their last days of servitude, Arthur and his six remaining knights Lancelot (Ian Gruffudd), Galahad (Hugh Dancy), Tristan (Mads Mikkelsen), Dagonet (Ray Stevenson), Gawain (Joel Edgerton) and Bors (Ray Winstone) are awaiting a Roman Bishop to grant them their freedom. Before everyone lives happily ever after, the Pope asks for one last favor of the magnificent seven: they must travel behind enemy lines, into Saxon territory, to rescue the Pope's favorite godson.

Arthur sees himself as a Roman and Christian, while the rest of the men are considered Sarmatian pagans, but loyalty as strong as the knights show for Arthur has never been depicted on the big screen or in life. They

don't feel they have much choice as they agree to follow Arthur in the final mission set by the Pope.

The godson's father turns out to be a religious fanatic who adds conflict to the complex religious overtones of the film. He imprisons, kills and tortures pagans. Arthur frees the prisoners, including the beautiful Guinevere (Keira Knightly), and helps them escape along with the godson and his family — with the Saxons in hot pursuit. The mission is completed successfully with minor casualties. But that doesn't mean everyone lives happily ever after, yet—the Saxons are coming.

Despite being a free man and with having his dream of an enlightened Rome destroyed, Arthur stays behind to lead the

Woads; the indigenous people of Britain led by former enemy Merlin, against the ensuing Saxons. Guinevere, also a Woad, is transformed from a beautiful fixture in the original to a fierce leather bikini-clad warrior in the new adaptation to help lead her people alongside Arthur and Merlin.

Loyalty and courage prevail again as the remaining knights return to help their friend and leader. The result is a tremendous battle ala *Braveheart*, *Gladiator*, *Troy* and every *Lord of the Rings* but without the massive computer generated wide shots. Director Antoine Fuqua (*Training Day*) uses fantastic angles and intense close-ups, resembling those used by legendary Japanese director Kurosawa, for a nice change of pace from the coagulated computer animation.

The script leaves out much of the love

See *King Arthur*, page 11

THE SCENE

Mr. Largebeat

Local musical group introduces rock 'n' roll to the X-files sound

Andrea King
Staff Writer

It's The X-files meets rock 'n' roll.

Mr. Largebeat, a science fiction rock band, presents music with and songs with some cosmic connection to a space-age odyssey.

Mr. Largebeat has been entertaining audiences with instrumental collaborations ever since the lead singer—James 'Largebeat' Gertz—landed in Ann Arbor.

"I truly believe that he thinks he came from outer space," said band member Lianne Clair.

All sightings aside, the band produces a mix of musical instruments and vocals for all ages, performing their top hits including: "Blast Off", "Saucers over Seattle", "Men in Black" and "Sending Suzy Signals from Saturn."

Clair, of Van Buren Township, said that listeners of Mr. Largebeat will be treated to the original works of Gertz, who is a master Theremin player.

"He makes it a big part of what the band is," said Clair.

The six members: Mat Brzezinski on drums and vocals, M.J. Hill on guitar, Oliver Blades on bass, Patrick Little on keys and synth, Gertz on Theremin, vocals and percussions and Clair on clarinet, saxophone, percussion and vocals, have only been together a short time.

Clair said that the music is heavily influ-

enced by 70s rock bands The Doors and Pink Floyd, 80s bands The B-52s and Devo, and even Chuck Berry.

"We are always working to have new and improved music," she said. "It's fascinating to see both older people and youngsters able to respond to the music. We plan to continue to do that to entertain people."

Each member has experience and talent, too, she said. Everyone has previously played or is currently involved with other bands, bringing those experiences into Mr. Largebeat. Some members have had formal musical training, and some have not, she said.

"Jim finds people who can help him bring out the music he's creating," said Clair. "I have found that people who have had some training in music are some of the best problem solvers I have ever known. I believe it's because training the brain to understand music facilitates creative thinking in a way that no other media can."

Clair said that she has been involved with music since she was 11, when she began to play the clarinet.

"I lost my music for a period of time while pursuing my education," she said. "I rediscovered it when I joined the band Quatro Veda. That's when Mr. Largebeat saw me playing and asked if I would be interested in joining his band. After listening to the music, I couldn't turn him down. It is fun stuff."

Recently, the band played at the



The six members of Mr. Largebeat—Mat Brzezinski, M.J. Hill, Oliver Blades, Patrick Little, James Gertz and Lianne Clair—produce a mix of musical instruments and vocals for all ages. Upcoming events include performances at Brown Park, Liberty Plaza and Arbor Brew Company, all located in Ann Arbor.

Belleville National Strawberry Festival, Rubber Soul in Ypsilanti and The Club Above in Ann Arbor. Upcoming events include performances at Brown Park, Liberty Plaza and Arbor Brew Company, all located in Ann Arbor.

"We don't have plans to tour out of state, but we will continue to tour around Michigan," she said. "We're happy to be a local band. We are the type of band that is geographically situated well, but we're not afraid to do local traveling."

This fall, Clair said that they are expected to finish their first CD that will have a more updated-modern feel.

"Music is a universal language," she said. "I create and participate in music to express some of my nonverbal feelings and I find it rewarding to share my music with other people."

"The most wonderful thing about music is that it's universal," she added. "Everyone can enjoy music, regardless of education, ethnicity or ability."

King Arthur

FROM PAGE 10

triangle between Arthur, Guinevere and Lancelot, but it's not really missed.

There is a look here and there between Lancelot and Guinevere, but the affair is completely undeveloped.

Although the fabled story of *King Arthur* was drastically changed, it was actually refreshing to see a new take on an old myth no matter how historically accurate the film may or may not have been.

If audiences aren't sick of the horse-and-sword epic film yet, *King Arthur* is sure to please. But for those who have seen enough bloody battles fueled by pure testosterone during the last few years and the thought of one more "freedom" speech induces a headache, then, as King Arthur



Arthur (Clive Owen, center) comes to the aid of the Romans by fighting off attacking Woads

says in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, "Run away!"



The Knights of the Round Table, including (left to right) Galahad (Hugh Dancy), Galahad (Joel Edgerton, partially obscured), Tristan (Mads Mikkelsen), Bors (Ray Winstone), Dagonet (Ray Stevenson), Arthur (Clive Owen) and Lancelot (Ioan Gruffudd) raise a toast to their freedom

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SPORTS

Accelerators gear up for regional championship

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Scholastic sports may be over for the summer but the track fields at Romulus Middle School are still buzzing with activity.

There the Michigan Accelerators, a group of track stars from across western Wayne County, congregate with one goal in mind – to be the best that they can be.

They endured the first real heat wave of the summer last Friday as they practiced for both the U.S. Track and Field Association Regional Championship in Farmington and the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympic Regional Championships in Lima, Ohio, which took place last weekend.

"We're lucky to be here!" yelled coach James Hall to the athletes as they warmed up for practice. "This is a championship weekend!"

He's excited. He's happy.

He shouts encouragement at his team with a broad smile on his lips:

"You are beautiful! You are special!"

Hall's energy and enthusiasm echoes his own success. As a student at Dearborn Heights Robichaud, he was a member of a championship team under the guidance of Coach Fran McCauley, who is now one of the coaches for the Accelerators. Hall then went on to play football at the Eastern Michigan University and moved to the big league where he played for the Minnesota Vikings in the NFL.

After his stint in the NFL, he coached track in Georgia and then moved back to Inkster, where he realized there was no track club.

The Accelerators, now in its second year as a club, was originally geared toward Inkster kids but Hall wanted to open it up to every one in the area. In its first year, the club had 45 members but, with the success of the club during the outdoor and indoor season, the club began to grow.

Now the it boasts an 80-member roster with members from Plymouth, Canton, Wayne, Westland, Inkster, Romulus, Woodhaven, Taylor, Dearborn Heights, River Rouge and Detroit. The competitors are all between 9-18 years old.

McCauley, who was a track coach at Dearborn Heights Robichaud for 33 years before he took over as assistant principle – a position that doesn't allow him to coach high school sports – said he is glad to have the Accelerators. It still allows him a chance to coach, he said.

"This is something that I wanted to do for a long time," He added. "It provides our kids with a means to enhance their skills.

"We started with younger kids, too," he added, "That way we can wean them into track with basics and they learn that track is fun

but also hard."

Romulus' head football coach Wade Cook has also donated his time to the club as an assistant coach. He said that the club teaches the kids about a lot more than just track.

"They learn to respect one another," he said. "They learn to respect their opponents – it's not just about track but about life too. That's the name of the game."

Along with the positive influence of the coaches, the parents are a huge factor in the success of the club, according to Hall.

"It's a wonderful family atmosphere around here," he said. "It takes a village to raise a child, that's our credo."

Venus Vesey, a Dearborn Heights resident, has a grandson from Plymouth and a great niece and great nephew that take part in

the club.

"This is phenomenal," she said. "When I was a youngster we didn't have any clubs in this area. Coach Hall really brings these kids together."

The athletes seem to enjoy the extra workouts, competition and camaraderie.

"They learn to respect one another. They learn to respect their opponents – it's not just about track but about life too. That's the name of the game."

Wade Cook



Coach James Hall, left, instructs Sam Williams, of Westland, during a training session last Friday before the Accelerators headed to regional championship last Saturday.

See **Track**, page 13

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JULY

- 15 **Collective Soul** w/ Tony C & The Truth
- 16 **DSO "Symphonic Blockbusters"**
- 17 **DSO "Great Gershwin"**
- 18 **DSO "DSO Goes to the Movies"**
- 20 **Shawn Colvin / Cowboy Junkies**
- 22 **Fred Garbo Inflatable Theatre Co. - 2 Shows!**
- 23 **Chris Isaak** w/ Sophie B. Hawkins
- 30 **Carrot Top**
- 31 **Lewis Black** w/ David Dyer

AUGUST

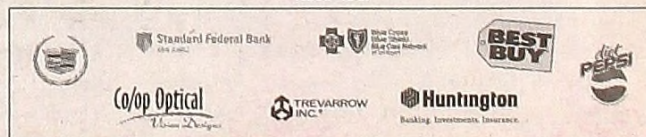
- 7 **DSO "Tchaikovsky Spectacular"**
- 8 **DSO "Classical Mystery Tour: A Tribute to the Beatles"**
- 11 **Bela Fleck & The Flecktones**
w/ Keller Williams / Yonder Mountain String Band

- 13 **Nashville Star Tour**
from USA Network Reality Show featuring 2004 winner Brad Cotter
- 14 **Franklin The Turtle**
- 18 **Bob Marley Roots Rock Reggae Festival**
featuring the Marley Brothers
- 19 **"Weird Al" Yankovic**
- 22 **Cyndi Lauper**
- 28 **Richard Jeni**

SEPTEMBER

- 4 **The Robert Cray Band / Buddy Guy**

Sponsors:





Members of the Michigan Accelerators take part in a sprinting drill in practice last Friday.

Track

FROM PAGE 12

Adrian Simmons, a recent graduate from Romulus High School, said he has helped improve his skills by racing against quality runners throughout the state. He will attend Eastern Michigan University in the fall.

Tonia White, one of the top sprinters in the state, according to Hall, and a recent graduate from John Glenn received a track scholarship to Western Michigan University.

"The club mostly prepares me for competition as far as skill and technique," she said. "If it wasn't for the coaches I don't think that I'd be involved."

Hall said he hopes the club

We prepare these kids with lessons in life for the rest of high school and prepare them for college.

continues to grow in notoriety because he loves to give back to the community that he is a part of.

"They are all wonderful, beautiful kids," Hall said. "They could be doing something else right now, but they love it."

"We're excited to do this for the community," he added.

"We prepare these kids with lessons in life for the rest of high school and prepare them for college."

Golf outing honors fallen police officers

John Counts
Staff Writer

Two Canton Township Police officers who lost their lives last year will be honored this September with a charity golf outing.

The Canton Police Benevolent Fund is hosting a day of golf to raise money for the families of Ofc. Gordon "Lew" Stevens and Ofc. Brian Darow. The fund was established recently and will continue to collect money for the families of fallen police officers.

"We wanted to get started so we can help out the families," said Sgt. Chuck Raycraft, a union board member and organizer of the golf event.

"There's been a lot of support, but there can always be some more," he said.

Officer Stevens was on-duty when his police cruiser was struck by a speeding car on Lotz Road last July. Officer Darow was off-duty, hanging Christmas lights at his home when he fell from a 20-foot ladder and died from the injuries he sustained.

The Canton Police Benevolent Fund is now starting to take donations for the event that will begin at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 8 at the Pheasant Run Golf Club.

The cost to participate is \$100 per person. This price includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, a continental breakfast, a hot dog, drink tickets, dinner with a cash bar and door prizes.

Most of all, Raycraft said he wants to see the Canton business community get involved in the event. Corporate sponsorship is \$750. Drink cart sponsorship is \$250; hole sponsorship can be purchased for \$100. It's \$50 for dinner tickets only.

"It's a really worthwhile cause," Raycraft said.

For more information, or to register for the event, contact Raycraft at 734.394.5424.

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Arts council seeking directors

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts is seeking applicants for the open seats on the board of directors. Each director will serve a 3-year term working to bring quality art, culture and entertainment to the area.

The council is a non-profit organization that depends upon membership dues and donations, along with the board of directors for financial governance. Directors carry out the work of the organization by serving on a standing committee.

If interested in being considered by the nominating committee, please contact Lianne Clair at 734-697-8123 or 734-697-4229.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 27, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111.

The Public Hearing relates to Parcel Numbers V125-83-045-99-0020-702 and V125-83-045-990020-703, also know as Visteon Village. The properties are located on the south side of Ecorse Road, between Hannan and Haggerty Roads.

The subject site is located within the Charter Township of Van Buren OT (Office Technology) Zoning District. The applicant, Visteon Village, is requesting a variance to sign standards as regulated by the Charter Township of Van Buren's Zoning Ordinance Section 4.23. The Applicant requests relief from the maximum number of signs permitted, maximum sign area permitted, and maximum height of signs.

The applicant is requesting a variance to:

SECTION 20.409 DISTRICT REGULATIONS

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the above reference Public Hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

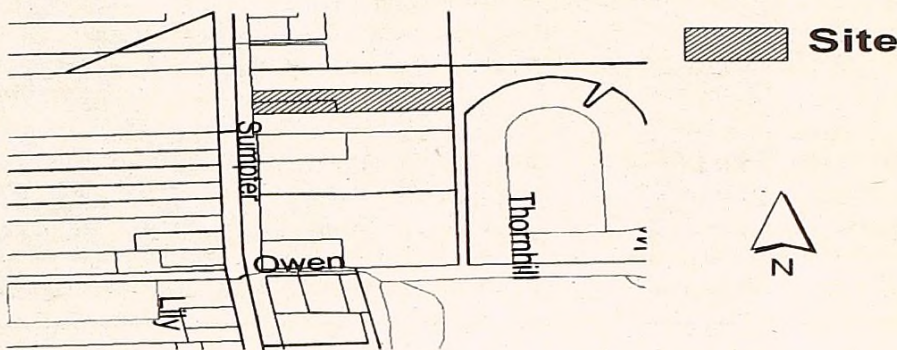
Publish: July 15, 2004

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday July 28, 2004 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan.

The Public Hearing is to request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92 by rezoning the following described property from M- I Light Industrial to C- I General Business:



This is a portion of parcel tax ID number V-125-83-106-99-0008-001 and V-125-83-106-99-008002. This property is located on the east side of Sumpter Road between Belleville and Hull Roads.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Published: July 15, 2004
Posted: July 8, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES JULY 6, 2004

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Herman, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Recreation and Facilities Director Ross, Deputy Public Safety Director Smolen, Water and Sewer Director Duha, Lieutenant Brooks, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of five (5).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Payne moved, Jahr seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

MINUTES: Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of June 14, 2004 as presented. Carried.

Budd moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2004 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: The "State of the Township the Year 2003 in Review" will be aired following the Board Meeting.

A letter from the National Recreation & Park Association notifying the township that the Camp with a Cop Program is the 2nd place recipient of a partnership award for collaborative programs between the Parks and Recreation and the Public Safety Departments and further thanked Director Ross for submitting the award application.

A letter from Edgemont Elementary School thanking Fire Fighters John Henderson and Seth Kleinglass for their participation in Edgemont's Career Day.

A letter from a resident thanking Waste Management for providing good weekly garbage and compost pick-up service.

Officer Robert Greene has successfully completed the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Officer Training and is now certified as an Elementary School/Middle School D.A.R.E. instructor and also as a School Resource Officer (S.R.O.).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Hart moved, Herman seconded to approve the Treasurer's request to extend without penalty the collection of the 2004 summer taxes through Thursday, September 30, 2004. Carried.

Payne moved, Jahr seconded to adopt Resolution 2004-17 the storm water management system maintenance and repair agreement between the Township and HRF Inc. and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Herman moved, Budd seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance 07-06-04 to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance, 06-02-92, as amended, to rezone a parcel of land known as V125-83-05099-0001-000 from M-1 (Light Industrial), R-M (Multiple Family) and AG (Agricultural/Large Estate) to O-T (Office Technology) located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Haggerty and Tyler Roads. Carried.

*(A copy of Ordinance 07-06-04 follows the minutes. Copies may also be obtained in the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

Herman moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the contract for the 1-275/Ecorse Road interchange improvements between Van Buren Township and Angelo lafrate Construction in the amount of \$858,545.57 and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the July 6, 2004 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor King ordered the March, April and May 2004 Budgetary Reports received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Tuesday, July 6 th was the last day to register for the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2004. Absentee ballots are available and ballots are currently being processed by the Clerk's Office. Contact the Clerk's Office at 699.8909 for additional information on this or other voting questions.

The Recreation Department is offering the following programs and events. The first of the Summer Concert Series at Van Buren Park will begin on Wednesday, July 7th at 7:30 p.m. The Concert Series runs for six weeks with performances by various musical groups. Also, the Van Buren Recreation Department and the Belleville Parks Commission proudly present a Detroit Tigers baseball trip on Friday, August 6 at 7:05 p.m. For further information on programs and events contact the Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

The "Camp with a Cop" program is scheduled for August 20th through August 22nd at Van Buren Park. It is open to children ages 9-14 years old who are residents of Van Buren Township or the City of Belleville. Space is limited to the first 80 children. Applications are available at the Van Buren Public Safety Department and the City of Belleville.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): None.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Payne seconded to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King Approved:
Township Supervisor

Publish: July 15, 2004

OBITUARIES

FITZHUGH, Timothy G.

Timothy G. Fitzhugh, 54, of Romulus, died July 2.

Among his survivors are his wife, Marie R. (Poet) Fitzhugh; children, John H. (Jennifer) Fitzhugh of Dearborn and Alicia (James) Cox of Hamburg; brother, Frankie Johnson of Palaski, TN; sisters, Colleen Fitzhugh of Orlando, FL, Cathy (James) Clark of Chiefland, FL and Judy (Jerry) Ringner of Raleigh, NC; granddaughters, Candace Rae and Ainsley Cassidy, and his mother, Shirley J. (McCreedy) Fitzhugh.

Mr. Fitzhugh served in the U.S. Air Force and retired from the Air National Guard.

Funeral services were at First United Methodist Church with the Rev. John Grenfell officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus.

ROBBINS, Russell J.

Russell J. Robbins, 70, of Romulus died July 6.

Among his survivors are his wife, Patricia; children Russell (Kim) Robbins, Donald Robbins, Thomas, Robbins Patricia Robbins and Glen (Elizabeth) Robbins; brothers, Kenneth, Bert and David Robbins; a sister,

Betty Renke; 15 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Huron Township.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park

WORDEN, Rubie L.

Ruble L. Worden, 72, of Romulus, died July 9. Among her survivors are her children, Denise (William) Kinzer, Clifton (Patricia) Worden and Dwight Worden; seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services were at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Wayne with Father Gerard Bechard officiating. Interment was at Parkview Memorial Park in Livonia.

TARR, Wanda June

Wanda June Tarr, 79, a 30-year resident of Belleville, died July 9. Among her survivors are her husband of nearly 62 years, Frank Tarr; a brother, Leroy (Yvonne) Rawlings of Mio; a sister, Lillian (Clyde) Meyard of Fort Myers, FL, and four grandchildren. Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville. Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral

Home in Belleville.

KATCHER, Paul

Paul Katcher, 77, of Wayne, died July 5.

Among his survivors are his wife, Delores; children, Paul W. Katcher, Lori Katcher and Gregory (Joy) Katcher; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Dearborn.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home.

SUYAK, Michael "Bob"

Michael "Bob" Suyak, 73, of Wayne, died July 3.

Among his survivors are his wife of 46 years, Patricia Suyak; children, Kimberly (Glen) Meisel, Scott (Kirsten) Suyak, Brian (Nikki) Suyak, Patricia (Brian) Matson and Craig Suyak; and grandchildren, Paige and Hunter Meisel, Ryan, Alyssa, Evan, Jessica and

Jacob Suyak and Cole Matson.

Funeral services were at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne with Father Jack Baker officiat-

ing.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
ORDINANCE 07-06-04
PROPOSED REZONING MAP

First Reading of Ordinance 07-06-04, Second reading for adoption will be held at the 7:30 p.m. regular meeting of the Board of Trustee on Tuesday, 07-20-04 to be held in the Board Room, in the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, Michigan 48111.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE 6-6-92, AS AMENDED, OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDAINS:

- Section 1.** The Zoning Map in connection with the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Van Buren shall be amended so that the zoning of the following described property to wit:

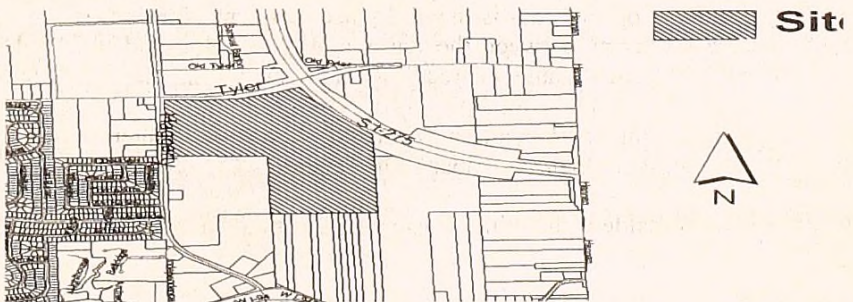
Ordinance Number 07-06-04

To rezone parcel number(s): Parcel number V125-83-050-99-0001-000 from M-1 (Light Industrial), R-M (Multiple family) and AG (Agricultural/Large Estate) to O-T Office Technology).

Legal Description of Property:
Parcel number V125-83-050-99-0001, located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Haggerty and Tyler Roads.
- Section 2.** All Ordinances and parts of Ordinance in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of such conflict.
- Section 3.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption and publication.
- Section 4.** This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, Country of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting held on the day of, 2004.

Yeas: King, Payne, Budd, Hart, Herman, Jahr and Rochowiak. Nays: None. Absent: None.

This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenti-



cated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within ten (10) days after its passage.

I hereby certify that Ordinance 07-06-04 was published in the Belleville Enterprise, a newspaper circulating within the Charter Township of Van Buren.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

Publish: July 15, 2004

JULY BOARD OF REVIEW
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS
OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, July 20th, 2004 at 4:00 pm.

The purpose of this meeting will be to correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact

Property assessments can only be changed for :

1. Homestead exemption status.
2. Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify under items 1 or 2 should call Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to July 20, 2004.

Joannie Payne, CMC
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: July 8, 2004
July 15, 2004
Post: July 2, 2004

Charter Township of Van Buren
BID INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES

The Charter Township of Van Buren will be accepting sealed bids for recreational trails construction and related services. The project entails construction of a recreational trail and site amenities at the Visteon Village Site off of Ecorse Road. Bids must be sealed in an envelope marked "Visteon Recreational Trails" and submitted to the office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Bids will be accepted until 10:00 AM EST on Monday, August 2, 2004 and will be publicly opened following the deadline.

There will be a pre-bid meeting and site visit on Monday, July 26, 2004, at 10:00 AM. Specifications and plans may be obtained from the Clerk's Office during normal business hours starting July 8, 2004. This project is partially funded with a federal grant and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation is required. For more information you may call (734) 699-8913.

The Charter Township of Van Buren reserves the right to waive any discrepancies or irregularities in the bid. The Township also reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and is not required to accept the low bid.

Publish: July 8, 2004
July 15, 2004
July 22, 2004

Makeover ministry

Local furniture restorer wins prestigious state business award

Scott Spielman
Editor

A long-time Wayne business is celebrating a milestone with an award.

The GRAMCO Furniture Restoration Co., which opened 40 years ago this month, recently won the Best Small Business Award from the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC), according to owner John VerHines.

It was one of only 14 small companies to be honored at the award ceremony, which took place last month at the James B. Henry Center for Executive Development at Michigan State University.

VerHines credits two things for the long-term success of the business: the current trend in furniture retail that signifies a return to quality and a book he's read about half a dozen times, *The E-Myth Revisited*, by Michael Gerber.

The first time was about four or five years ago, when he felt the business had reached a plateau.

"We'd been going strong for more than 30 years," he said. "We had an excellent reputation with our clients, but the business just wasn't growing and we didn't know why."

The theory espoused by the book is that good tradesmen don't always make good businessmen, he said. It helped VerHines

change his approach – he said he always operated under the philosophy that if you worked hard and fast and did a better job than anyone else, you'd be successful – and helped him to do more strategic planning for the business.

The company originated from an antique business started by VerHines' father, William, in 1958. William was born in 1910, so he was older than a typical entrepreneur, but VerHines said he learned a lot under his tutelage.

"We were traveling all around the state, buying antiques," VerHines said. "I learned about it all the time. You'd think after all these years, there wouldn't be any more to learn, but there an infinite amount of things to know."

He learned not only what to look for in quality furniture, but how it was put together and that spawned the idea for the modern-day GRAMCO – how to properly restore damaged or misused furniture.

He said he's seen all types throughout the years.

"We've had things that have been shot, stabbed and drowned," VerHines said.

"We've even fixed things that have fallen off a truck along I-94."

VerHines, who once considered a career in the ministry, said he puts a lot of personal pride and effort into everything at the store.

That's because he looks at everything as more than just a piece of furniture to be restored; more than a potential paycheck from a new or

regular client.

"It's not just a table," he said. "It's got a piece of a grandmother in it; it's got a piece of dad in it. When we put that back together, we show there's a sense of connectedness."

"This is a ministry for me," he added. "It's what I do. Every piece has a history."

That sense of responsibility to each and every piece restored at the company leads him to pay more for the materials he uses, he said. He's willing to spend extra money

if the products are more environmentally friendly or produce a better end result. A part of that, he added, is because he thinks it's disrespectful of the work that originally went into the piece as well as its restoration to use anything but the best materials.

Gramco is located on Michigan Avenue. The building itself stands in contrast to those around it, and is a bit of a restoration project, itself.

"It's getting better," VerHines said. "It's funny how when you get a little older you get more of a civic conscience. For a while it looked a little shabby. We know now that it's better to look good than it is to look bad. If everyone let their grass grow too long, the property values would go down. It wouldn't be a desirable shopping district."

VerHines said he has no desire to quit the business, no matter how successful he becomes at it – or anything else.

"If you win the lottery today and don't show up to work tomorrow, you're doing the wrong job," he said.

"Everything you do in life should be congruent to the purpose of your life. The whole art of restoration is right down to brass tacks, to me."

It's funny how when you get a little older you get more of a civic conscience. For a while it looked a little shabby.

John VerHines

CITY OF ROMULUS APPENDIX A - ZONING AMENDMENT 1.194

An Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of the City of Romulus by Rezoning certain properties from RC (Regional Center District) to C-2 (General Business District).

THE CITY OF ROMULUS ORDAINS:

SHORT TITLE: This ordinance shall be known and cited as the amended Zoning Ordinance.

SECTION 1: To rezone six (6) parcels of land, 3.67± acres on the east side of Merriman between Ecorse and Smith Roads.
DP#'s 82-80-042-02-003-000
82-80-042-02-004-000
82-80-042-02-005-000
82-80-042-02-006-000
82-80-042-02-007-000
82-80-042-02-008-000

SECTION 2: Severability. Should any word, sentence, phrase or any portion of this ordinance be held in any manner invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction or by any state agency having authority to do so for any reason whatsoever, such holdings shall be construed and limited to such words, sentence, phrase, or any portion of the ordinance held to be so invalid and shall not be construed as effecting the validity of any of the remaining words, sentences, phrases or portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 3: Conflicting Ordinances. All prior existing ordinances adopted by the City of Romulus inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, hereby expressly repealed.

SECTION 4: Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon publication thereof in an official newspaper, which publication shall be made when the minutes passing the ordinance are published subject to revocation at will of the City of Romulus at any time.

ADOPTED, APPROVED AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Romulus this 28th day of June, 2004.

Alan R. Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Ordinance as passed by the City Council of the City of Romulus at a regular Council Meeting held in the City Council Chambers said City on the 28th day of June, 2004.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk

Introduced: June 07, 2004
June 28, 2004
July 15, 2004

CITY OF ROMULUS APPENDIX A - ZONING Amendment 1.195

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF ROMULUS BY REZONING 23.86+ ACRES FROM M1, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, TO MT-2 INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION 2 DISTRICT.

THE CITY OF ROMULUS ORDAINS:

SHORT TITLE: This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Amended Zoning Ordinance.

SECTION 1: To rezone 23.86+ acres of parcel 82-80-004-99-0006-000 and 82-80-004-99-0004-700 on the south side of Beverly Road, between Middlebelt and Inkster Roads from M1 Light Industrial District to MT-2, Industrial Transportation 2 District.

The west 165 feet of the east 446 feet of the northwest 1/4 of the southeast 1/4 of Section 1 -5.01 acres.

The northwest 1/4 of the southeast 1/4 of Section 1, except the east 446 feet, also except the west 330 feet thereof - 17.85 acres.

SECTION 2: Severability. Should any word, sentence, phrase or any portion of this ordinance be held in any manner invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction or by any state agency having authority to do so for any reason whatsoever, such holdings shall be construed and limited to such words, sentence, phrase, or any portion of the ordinance held to be so invalid and shall not be construed as effecting the validity of any of the remaining words, sentences, phrases or portions of this ordinance.

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ADOPTED, APPROVED AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Romulus this 28th day of June, 2004.

Alan R. Lambert Mayor
Linda R. Choate, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Ordinance as passed by the City Council of the City of Romulus at a regular Council Meeting held in the City Council Chambers in said City on the 28th day of June, 2004.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk

Introduced: June 7, 2004
Adopted: June 28, 2004
Publish: July 15, 2004

4th of July spirit should remain all year long

Thinking about life today and how it relates to our freedom, I find myself more and more concerned.

Our spiritual lives and safety that is the reward of liberty is very quickly being taken from us while we sit by like lambs.

I called SBC Telephone Company to cancel my international service and asked for a detail on the overall account.

"And, there's an information call to Georgia," the syrupy voiced woman said. "That's \$2.49."

"WHAT?" I said. "Two dollars and 49 cents for a phone number?"

She said that yes, it was two and a half bucks for out of state information. The cost for in state

is \$1.25 per call.

"What happened to the one free information call the company managed to quietly reduce from unlimited free information, to seven calls per month, to five, to one? Now, there's none?"

"That's right, we charge for all information calls."

"I got information for you—that's criminal," I said.

I'm looking for a super bright attorney willing to file a lawsuit against all the phone companies who charge for information numbers. The grounds: SBC ET el. are engaging in a monopoly, holding us hostage because we have no other way to obtain a number.

Either that or force the phone companies to provide to each of us phone directories for every

city, town, village and state the companies provide service for.

This is just another reason I'm against all these merger monopolies.

Faster than we realize, our freedom of choice is being stolen by huge conglomerates that buy their way into government approval to become bigger.

Sure, we get angry, then, sadly, apathetic. Instead of rising up, we say what's the use, and pacify our frustrations with too much food, drink, prescription drugs, cigarettes—all symptoms of terrible self esteem, of addictive thinking—"I'll show you, I'll hurt me."

It is way past time for each of us to bring that great scene from the movie *Network* to real life.

Remember it? When anchorman Howard Beal told viewers to take action and let the world know. "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not gonna take it anymore."

There is however, some favorable action these. Thank God.

The United States Supreme Court rejected a law that would punish Internet porn pushers. By a vote of 5-4, the court rejected the so-called Child Online Protection Act, saying it restricts free speech, which is the right of each and every one of us.

I am 100 percent against porno being available to a child. And, I am 10,000 percent in support, always, of free speech. I agree with the court and support the recommendation that the law be rewritten to protect our chil-

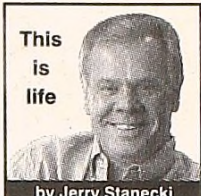
dren and free speech.

That's what freedom is all about, the right for us to disagree, to fight back when we feel we'd being ripped-off or taken advantage of, but always it is imperative that we agree to be united in protecting our liberty.

"Liberty does not consist in mere declarations of the rights of man. It consists in the translation of those declarations into definite action."

—Woodrow Wilson—4 July 1914.

To order Jerry's latest book, *Life is a Joke and God Wrote it!* (\$19.50 includes taxes, shipping and handling) write to P.O. Box 121, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303



CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments &/w Cemetery Plots
05. Personals
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
31. Help Wanted Sales

32. Help Wanted
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Pawn Shops
43. Money to Loan
44. Music Lessons
45. Art Lessons
46. Private Instruction
47. Schools
50. Pets & Supplies

54. Rummage Sales
55. Farm Equipment/Supplies
56. Garage Sales
57. Antiques
58. Flea Markets
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business with Office & Equipment
64. Lawn & Garden Supplies

65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Christmas Trees
72. Machinery Tools
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Snowmobiles
77. Recreation Vehicles
78. Hunting / Fishing

82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Garages for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent
98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Mobile Home Lots for Rent

100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business with Property
104. Farms with Acreage
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos for Sale
108. Lake with Resort
109. Income with Property
110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property

112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Handicapped Vehicles
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

9. Lost & Found

Lost chocolate lab puppy. Last seen on Van Born and Wayne Road. \$500 reward for information leading to the return

313-534-2500
734-467-9870

Whippet
Approximately 6 years old. Found at Annapolis and Venoy
734-674-3584
734-728-1334

10. Coming Events

Romulus High
Class of '79 reunion.
August 7, 2004. Contact
Dwayne Moffat
ASAP 248-459-3399
for more info

32. Help Wanted

AEROBIC / FITNESS INSTRUCTORS

Fitness Factory, a leader in community fitness programs is looking to hire more instructors. 1-10 hrs. a wk. Many locations. Experienced or will train if you've taken some fitness classes. Next major workshop is Saturday Aug 7.

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32. Help Wanted

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35728 Van Born • Wayne



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Crane

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61. Misc. Items

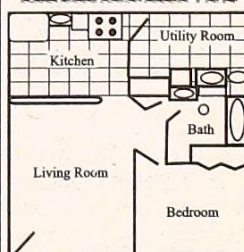
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56. Garage Sales

Belleville
42494 E. Huron
River Dr.
7/16-7/17 9-5
Santas and Christmas Decor

Belleville
15682 Bak
7/15-7/17 9-5
5 Family Garage Sale
New and Used!
Tupperware, Avon,
Household,
3T-7 Dresses,
Rare Barbies,
Plus Sized Clothes

Romulus
9633 Washington
7/16-7/18 10-6
Clothing, Housewear,
Furniture, Ect.
Located behind
McDonald's east of
Wayne

WAYNE
3355 Mildred,
between Venoy and
Merriman, N. side of
Michigan Ave.
7/15, 7/16, and 7/17
8-5

WAYNE
4421 Dean
7/15, 7/16, 7/17, 7/18
10-6

59. Auctions

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On July 20, 2004 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1977 Ford Ranchero
Pickup Truck-Blue
7A485184159
1987 Ford F-150
Pickup Truck-White Orange

57. Antiques

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- Consignment Accepted •

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I-75 S to Exit 27, turn right & go to Telegraph Rd.
(or)
I-275 S to Exit 8, turn left onto Will Carleton Rd,
go to Telegraph Rd, turn right & go 1.5 miles

1FTEF15N9HLA20479
1994 Eagle Talon
2 Door-Burgundy
4E3CF44E5RE103951
1993 Ford Escort
2 Door-Red
1FAPP11J6PW377548
1987 Ford Aerostar
Station Wagon- Blue Silver
1FMCA11U7HZA02445
1991 Ford Taurus
2 Door-Red
1FACP54Y1MA134091
1987 Chevy Chevette
4 Door-Brown
1G1TB61C3HA132039
1986 Chrysler 5th Ave
4 Door-Maroon
1C3BF66PXGX597419

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1981 Ford Econoline
Van-Blue
1FTDE04E0BHA89419
1992 Oldsmobile
4 Door-Red
1G3HY53L1NH357212
2003 Ford Econoline
Van-Gray
1FDRE14L63HA61969
1999 Lincoln Navigator
SW-Gray
5LMPU28A4XLJ29355
1997 Ford Ranger
Pickup Truck-Red
1FTCR10A8VUA46113
1986 Ford F-150
Pickup Truck-Red
2FTDF15Y3GCA77081
1990 Chrysler Lebaron
4 Door-Purple
3C3XA5632LT032762
1995 Ford Escort
2 Door-Green
1FASP11J7SW369655
1989 Dodge Dakota
Pickup Truck-White
1B7FL26X9KS158538
1992 Chevy Corsica
4 Door-White
1G1LT53T9NY296841
2002 Ford Mustang
2 Door-Blue
1FAFP40432F150688

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION

Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after AUGUST 14, 2004 unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time:

Alloy
Boat Trailer
Blue
1972 Buick Riviera
2 Door-Blue
4Y87U2H904507
1972 Pontiac
2 Door-Brown Yellow
2D37M2P107732

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AUTO AUCTION

Notice of public sale. Notice is hereby given by the undersign that on Saturday, July 17, 2004, at 10:00 AM at Motors Auction Group, 19865 Telegraph, Brownstown, MI, a public sale of the following vehicles will be held.
Publish June 17, 2004.

1985 Thun Capri
TER20723D485
1992 Saturn SL2
1G8ZK5478NZ144706
1994 Chrysler LHS
2C3ED56FXRH249017
1994 Oldsmobile Achieva
1G3NL5532RM045623
1989 Ford Thunderbird
1FAPP6249KH133492
1989 Lincoln Town Car
1LNBM82F6KY697168
1987 Ford Econoline
1FTEE24H1HHA08656
1988 Buick Regal
2G4WB14W3J1440448
1999 Shorel Trailer
1MDGE5R18XA065484

60. Misc. Sales

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washing machine, extra
large capacity,
good condition. \$100
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734-718-3577

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105. Mobile Homes For Sale

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103. Business Property

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105. Mobile Homes-Lots

Belleville

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106. Houses For Sale

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107. Condos & Townhouses For Sale

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